



Wednesday Prayer

All Saints Sunday – Blessed by God

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:1-12

On All Saints Sunday, we honor those who have gone before us into the kingdom of heaven. This Gospel, the Beatitudes, blesses all those who are not given honor here on earth. Jesus speaks to the crowds declaring all the marginalized and persecuted of his society to be blessed. Blessed by God, given honor and the promise of God’s kingdom in heaven.

Michelle Terry, in her Bold Café blog [Honoring our saints](#), reflects on how we know God as influenced by those in our lives. She has been generously and unexpectedly cared for by her family and congregation. But what about those who have not? She writes,

“If a person has never – not once – known a relationship where she was valued and loved unconditionally, why would she ever believe that God feels that way about her?”

Through our actions, through how we treat others, we might have the opportunity to influence another’s perceptions about God. If we honor and bless those who mourn, those who hunger and thirst, those who suffer in a life of exploitation, we can change lives. In our work to end systems of oppression that make some of God’s beloved so much more vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking, we can honor not only those who have gone before us, but also all the saints among us here on earth.

Loving God, you bless us all and call us to bless our neighbors. Help us to be a living witness to your blessing for all those who have gone before us. Help us to honor all who are marginalized as we work to dismantle systems of oppression so that we may protect and love your children. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

*Cherish All Children is coordinating our LSS Metro Homeless Youth Services [Youth Holiday Gifts](#) program this season. You can participate individually or as a congregation in bringing hope and joy to a young person!